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CIA-1ST ADD (UP 018)

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER INTELLIGENCE OFFICES SAID HE WAS "HEARTILY IN FAVOR" OF THE CHOICE.

"THE THING THAT MAKES JOHN MCMAHON UNIQUE IS THAT HE HAS SERVED IN ALL FOUR DIRECTORATES AND KNOWS THE INNER WORKINGS OF THE AGENCY BETTER THAN ANYBODY THERE," HE SAID.

"THIS YOU SIMPLY CAN'T PICK UP IN BRIEFINGS. EACH DIRECTORATE IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT AND ONLY FROM EXPERIENCE CAN YOU UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENT PROBLEMS."

MCMAHON'S SELECTION WOULD LEAD TO "A HOMOGENOUS TYPE OF MANAGEMENT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID. "THE MORALE WOULD GO UP. IT REPRESENTS AN ENDORSEMENT OF THE COMPETENCE OF THE PROFESSIONALS WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION."

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